Reviewing decision to ban non-iodised salt

700. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item, "Removal of Common salt ban to be disastrous, warn experts", published in the Asian Age dated 19th June, 2000;

(b) if so, the reaction thereto;

(c) whether in view of the reaction of experts and specialists all around, it is proposed to review the decision to remove ban on non-iodised salt being sold; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) There is no ban on sale of non-iodised salt except for direct human consumption. The notification issued on 10.5.2000 seeks public comments on a proposal, to make both iodised and non-iodised salt available for direct human consumption by removing the current restriction on sale of common salt for direct human consumption so that consumers can make their choice voluntarily rather than through consumption. All opinions received in the matter will be carefully considered before a final decision is taken.

Ban on sale of non-iodised salt

701. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN;

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to lift ban on sale of non-iodised salt; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?